

REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of December 12th, 2005

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

Peter Braunstein, the man accused of sexually assaulting a woman while posing as a New York City firefighter, was arrested on December 16, 2005 by Memphis Police and Deputy U.S. Marshals from the Western District of Tennessee (W/TN). On October 31, 2005, it is alleged that Braunstein, while dressed as a firefighter, forced his way into a female victim's apartment at gunpoint after setting two small fires outside her door. Once inside, Braunstein knocked the victim out with a chloroform soaked rag and sexually assaulted her for several hours as she drifted in and out of consciousness. Braunstein also robbed the victim of several items before finally leaving the scene. Attempts to locate Braunstein were unsuccessful and it was believed that the subject had possibly left New York. The New York City Police Department requested the assistance of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) in locating Braunstein. Information was developed indicating that the subject was possibly in Memphis, Tennessee and a collateral lead was sent to the USMS W/TN requesting their assistance in apprehending the subject. On December 10, 2005, Braunstein was profiled on the television show *America's Most Wanted*. After the broadcast, a tipster indicated that the subject was seen at a blood donation clinic in Memphis. On December 16, 2005, Braunstein was stopped by campus police at the University of Memphis and when confronted, stabbed himself several times in the neck with a knife. Braunstein was taken into custody by Memphis Police after a brief struggle. A replica USMS shield and a fake gun were recovered after the arrest. Braunstein was taken to a local hospital to be treated for his self-inflicted injuries and after being discharged, was transported to the Memphis Police Department. Braunstein has been extradited back to New York where he will face charges of arson, robbery, kidnapping, and several sex offenses.



Peter Braunstein

**Wanted for Sexual
Assault, Arson,
Robbery, Kidnapping**

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

On December 10, 2005, concerned neighbors of a female Virginia Beach resident obtained entry into her home and found her body wrapped in a blanket and concealed under a mattress. John Marshal Wise was charged by the Virginia Beach Police Department with her murder and was believed to have stolen the victim's vehicle and other possessions. On December 15, 2005, the Virginia Beach Police Department requested assistance from the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force (CARFTF) in locating Wise. On December 19, 2005, CARFTF investigators, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information that Wise had fled to an area near the Snowshoe ski resort in West Virginia. Immediate assistance was requested from two USMS offices in the Northern District of West Virginia. Knowing that Wise was a cook by trade, Deputy U.S. Marshals canvassed numerous Snowshoe restaurants and parking areas in an effort to locate Wise or the victim's vehicle. On December 20, 2005, Deputy U.S. Marshals discovered where Wise was working and living. While preparing to respond to the suspected address for Wise, the stolen vehicle was observed driving past the Deputy U.S. Marshals and an assisting West Virginia State Trooper. The team of investigators loosely followed the vehicle to a stop at the residence, where they moved in arrested Wise as he stepped out of the vehicle.



John Marshal Wise

Wanted for Murder

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force

On December 5, 2005, the Fayette County (GA) Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) in locating and arresting Arnold Wesley who was wanted for armed robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping and auto theft. Investigators developed information that Wesley was staying at his sister's apartment in the northwest part of Atlanta. On December 6, 2005, investigators conducting surveillance observed Wesley walking towards the home. After seeing a SERFTF vehicle parked nearby and a marked unit enter the area, Wesley became startled and ran down the street. Investigators gave chase on foot and observed Wesley run into the woods where he then fell. When he rolled over, agents saw that the subject was armed and that he had stuck the barrel end of a handgun into his mouth, threatening to kill himself. Investigators immediately took cover behind trees and began what would be a four-hour standoff. During this time, Wesley was very uncooperative and continued to threaten to kill himself. Atlanta PD SWAT officers arrived on the scene shortly after the ordeal began and, with the assistance of a SWAT team negotiator, Wesley eventually surrendered his weapon and was arrested without further incident. Wesley's criminal history contains several prior arrests for assault, burglary, robbery, and probation violation.



Arnold Wesley

Wanted for Armed Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Kidnapping, and Auto Theft

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Emigdio Ramirez Macias was arrested at the United States/Mexico border near San Luis, Arizona by Deputy U.S. Marshals from the District of Arizona and Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), based on information provided by investigators from the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF). Macias was wanted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) for a 1985 homicide. On October 31, 1985 Macias and his boss were engaged in a heated argument. A witness observed Macias go to his vehicle, retrieve a handgun and return to his place of work, at which point he fired a total of five rounds at his boss, striking him in the torso and the hand. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The LASD believes Macias then fled to Mexico where he has been hiding for over 20 years. At the request of the LASD, PSWRFTF investigators initiated an investigation and, with the assistance of the USMS Financial Surveillance Unit (FSU), developed leads that indicated that Macias was known to frequent certain locations in the Yuma, Arizona area. PSWRFTF investigators contacted Deputy U.S. Marshals from the District of Arizona and requested assistance in further investigating the information. Arizona investigators were able to identify a vehicle and alias identification that were being used by Macias. Further investigation revealed that Macias has been crossing the border in the Yuma area on a daily basis, using his alias identification. This information was provided to ICE agents for inclusion in their border lookout systems and, on December 16, 2005 at approximately 3:30 a.m., Macias crossed the Mexican border into the United States and was detained by ICE agents. Deputy U.S. Marshals from the District of Arizona responded to the border where they positively identified Macias and took him into custody. Macias was booked into the Yuma County Jail where he awaits extradition to Los Angeles to face the homicide charge.



**Emigdio Ramirez
Macias**

Wanted for Murder

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

On December 21, 2005, James Colwell, age 65, was arrested in Play Flamingo, Costa Rica, by Costa Rican Interpol Agents and Special Agents with the Department of State, via a collateral lead sent by the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF). Colwell was wanted by Wisconsin authorities for probation violation (1st degree sexual assault of a child) and for failure to register as a sex offender. He also had outstanding warrants in the Eastern District of Wisconsin for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution and by Georgia authorities for failure to register as a sex offender. In 1999, Colwell pled guilty to 2 counts of first degree sexual assault of a child, for which he received probation and a 30 year stayed sentence - which he is facing upon revocation of his probation. Colwell had his supervision transferred to Georgia from Wisconsin due to family reasons. In early 2004, Colwell fled Georgia when authorities began investigating him for continued inappropriate conduct with young children. Colwell allegedly was luring young children into his home to pet and feed his dogs and was also observed peering into neighbors' windows and playing tackle football with young children. In May 2005, the GLRFTF initiated a fugitive investigation. Leads were worked by the U.S. Marshals in Wisconsin, Illinois, Washington, Nevada, Michigan, and Georgia, and by the U.S. Marshals Financial Surveillance Unit (FSU), which led investigators to a realty company in Costa Rica, where Colwell was working. Coordination between the U.S. Marshals International Investigations Branch and the Regional Security Officer in Costa Rica confirmed Colwell's address and employment. A Provisional Arrest Warrant was issued and Colwell was arrested at his realty office. Colwell will face extradition proceedings in Costa Rica.



James Colwell

**Wanted for Failure to
Register as a Sex
Offender and
Probation Violation**